

Be a Berean

And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Acts 17:10-11 (KJV) 



The thing that was so special about the Bereans is that they actually believed that scripture held the truth. They weighed all the teachings of men against it instead of allowing men's doctrines to prevail. Nothing scares a wolf amongst the sheep more than a Christian that reads their Bible and literally believes every word is from God. But the shepherd that cares for his sheep welcomes their doctrines being verified.

But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;

Acts 2:16 (KJV) 

Let's take a moment to ponder what it really meant for those Bereans to check what Paul and Silas said against scripture. There was no internet. Printing presses didn't come along for another 1500 years, every copy of the Bible was hand written and scarce. There were no chapters and verses quoted as there are today, scripture was likely only referred to by the author as in the quote above. Papyrus isn't cheap, and you couldn't go down to Kmart and buy a legal pad to take notes, that's assuming they could read and write in the first place. So much personal knowledge of scripture relied on the hearer's best recollection. Most churches had a single copy of the Bible, if they were lucky.

Perhaps the best benefit of being a Berean is that we can get our truth from any source. Once we have trained ourselves to diligently check everything we are told against God's Word we can pick and choose ideas and hold them up next to it. We can take a doctrine that is based in truth but comes to the wrong conclusion and see it in its proper perspective.

But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Hebrews 5:14 (KJV) 

I believe that we have a spiritual 'sense of smell' that we develop. As we become familiar with the truth and exercise our discernment we develop a sense for truth. The truth has a 'ring' to it, as some people say.

Some people believe that studying God's Word is difficult and subject to many conflicting interpretations. Nothing could be further from the truth. As long as we have the Holy Spirit as our guide understanding scripture is very straight forward. Spiritual truths are unveiled to those who study the Word not through any feat of human reasoning, but by the Holy Spirit directly responding to our diligent inquiry for the answer.

Where people get confused is that we have been taught the doctrines of men, that we need a BA in Theology to

fully grasp God's Word. We have come to believe the lie that what scripture plainly says is not what it really means. I call this 'Esoteric Christianity' because it seeks to create a priesthood of men who we go to for the answers instead of directly to God and His Word.

The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.

Psalms 119:130 (KJV) 

But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Matthew 4:4 (KJV) 

You don't need special understanding beforehand in order to fully grasp Biblical truth, it is reading the Bible that gives us the understanding we so desperately need! We come to God's Word to get the understanding we need, we don't get understanding first then approach God's Word. It is a variation of the same lie of Satan where people think they have to put sin out of their lives before they come to Christ.

Dear brothers and sisters, God doesn't want us to follow anyone but Him. He wants to unveil His Biblical truths directly to each of us as individuals in a profound way. We don't need to go to Joyce Meyer for our doctrine. We don't need to go to Benny Hinn for our healing. We don't need to go to T.D. Jakes for our prosperity. We just need to get in our prayer closets with our Bibles and get all our needs fulfilled by the source of all knowledge, healing and power, our Lord Jesus Christ.

